

Oregon is a leading state in implementing, adapting, and taking innovative approaches to health care reform. On Friday, Congressman Blumenauer sat down with leaders of Oregon's health care community to discuss the progress and impact of health care reform implementation. At the first of two such roundtables, the Congressman was joined by 30 health care professionals from patient advocacy organizations, hospitals, insurers, and health care providers.

Two of the main concerns expressed by participants were the funding disparities and need for more training opportunities in graduate medical education. The majority of health care providers trained in Oregon stay in Oregon to practice. Roundtable attendees suggested that there needs to be more residency training slots so Oregon can continue to keep medical practitioners in state.

Participants also discussed drug shortages; in 2011, the number of new prescription drug shortages reached a record high of 267 drugs. Patients are feeling the impact as some of the drugs are widely used, such as tetracycline, or are only produced by a single manufacturer.

Blumenauer concluded the roundtable stating, "This wide ranging discussion is just what we need to understand and advocate for Oregon's unique health care interests."